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June 15, 1993

Leo Baeck Institute
129 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dr. Frank Mecklenburg

Dear Dr. Mecklenburg,

My mother-in-law, Rose Wolf, sent me the orginals of the enclosed documents. George R[illegible]by was her uncle.

If the documents are indeed of interest to you, I will be glad to supply you the orginals.

Yours truly,
Edward Levitan

LOCAL 1 • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AFL-CIO
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Geo. Rooby 3508 Garfield St N.W Washington 7, D.C. Room 924.

REPORT ON TRIP TO GERMANY 1938

I. General.

On Sunday, November 13th, 1938 I received a telephone call from Mr. M. C. Troper from Warsaw requesting that I proceed immediately to Berlin. I reached Berlin the following day. The sorrowful traces of the progrom were still in full evidence. All Jewish stores were demolished and partly pillaged, nine synagogues in Berlin (out of twelve) were completely burned down. The fact that three synagogues were not burned is only because they are so close to other buildings that the adjoining houses would have caught fire without any doubt had these three synagogues been set afire.

There is no doubt that the pogroms were well prepared in advance by the Nazis, and not "spontaneous excesses", because the youngsters responsible for the burning and pillaging could not have decided by themselves in their rage, which synagogues were to be burned and which were to be left intact.

All men between 18 and 60 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Only those who managed to hide successfully escaped.

Later, after visiting other cities in the Reich and after interviewing Jews and Gentiles alike, I was told that the plans for the pogrom had been worked out by the Nazi Party well in advance. An Aryan told me that the plans had been filed with the Party General Headquarters and were originally to be put into effect last September, if there had been a war over Czechoslovakia. The plans were modified because last September, in case of a war, most of the Jews were to be massacred.

The plight of the Jews in the Reich is indescribable. Robbed of their means of livelihood, thrown out of their homes, not being able to buy in Aryan stores, terror-striken by the latest excesses, threatened with arrest and hard labor at concentration camps, there exists for them no other solution but to emigrate.

Naturally, conditions in the smaller cities, towns and villages are catastrophic. There the Jews are doomed to starve - in many cases not because of lack of money, but because in the provinces the Aryan stores are forbidden to sell to Jews. They depend upon the generosity of their old Aryan friends who, out of pity, supply them with food. But these Aryans are taking risks and expose themselves to the danger of being incarcerated themselves for aiding the Jews.

I have spoken to Jews and non-Jews alike and they all unanimously express the conviction that Jewish foreign welfare organizations will not be permitted to work in Germany officially.

II. Berlin.

In Berlin I found most of the Jewish institutions closed and the leaders arrested.

The Reichsverband was closed and still remains closed.

The Loan Kassas in the entire Reich were closed and must be liquidated by January 1st, 1939.

The Hilfsverein has been left open to function in order to aid the Jews emigrate.

The Berlin Jewish Community was permitted to function only partially, but was forbidden to receive callers. All they were permitted to do is pure

welfare work like running soup kitchens, etc.

The Zionist institution is closed.

All Jewish newspapers are forbidden.

Messrs. Hirsch, Lillienthal, among others, were arrested. They have been released since, as I hear.

I got in touch witb Mr. Stahl, the President of the Jewish Community, and Mr. Fuchs, his assistant, in an effort to find out the Community's financial situation. Mr. Stahl claims that they have enough funds for some time and require no assistance from us as far as moneys are concerned. In fact, they strongly object to our sending good Dollars into Germany. They want the J.D.C. to use their funds to assist those German Jews who have a chance to get out of this hell and who will need aid once they are out of Germany.

In Berlin two women came to our office, imploring me to help them to release their husbands from the concentration camps. They had been frantically running from Government office to Government office to get together the various documents. Both women showed signs of beatings. Upon my question they explained that they went to the Polizei Praesidium to get a certificate of good behavious for their husbands. These certificates are issued in room 366. It is there that they were beaten up by two policemen without any reason. Later, however, they did get the certificates.

III. Nuremberg.

On the night between November 9th and 10th, hundreds of S. A. men in their brown uniforms were assembled on a public square and divided into squads of eight men. Then instructions were given to start the pogrom against Jewish stores, shops, and homes. Each detail of eight men received picks, hammers and shovels and were ordered to start their diabolical work. Each squad was furnished with lists of places to be visited and with large scissors and knives.

At 1 a.m. the pogrom started. Windows of Jewish shops were broken and doors forcibly opened. Fixtures were demolished, all merchandise in the stores was either cut into shreds or taken away by the Nazis. The synagogue was burned down.

Homes were broken into, all men arrested and women forced at the point of guns, either into attics or basements, where they were kept for two hours or longer, in order to avoid interference witb the destructive work of the Nazi bands.

Furniture was broken into small splinters, bedding cut up and money and jewelry taken away. It is true that in some rare cases receipts were given for money thus confiscated, but not for jewelry. Suits, linen, shirts, etc. were cut into shreds.

Tbe next day Jewisb homes were visited by Aryans offering to buy the "demolished Jew articles". Jews were glad to get rid of the splinters in this way, because they themselves were unable to remove the debris, as no truckman would have dared to haul away Jewish property.

In orphanages children were aroused at night and forced to evacuate the buildings in nightshirts and barefeet.

The cemetery was partly destroyed. Tbe mortuary chamber was demolished and twenty tombstones overturned: some were even smashed.

Up to the day I was in Nuremberg there were twenty dead, of whom two were suicides. The others died either from exposure or from wounds received when beaten

up. Quite a number died from heart failure.

The closing of the Reichsvertretung is a calamity and adds to the panic, because the Jews in the absence of their leaders have lost their heads and do not know what to do.

There exixted in the surroudnings of Nuremberg quite a large number of small Jewish farmers, who made a measly living, partly from the few acres of land they posseseed and partly by trading among the peasants. These Jews were chased out of their small farm houses, their property burnt and they were forced to camp in the fields and woods during that memorable night. The next day they came to Nuremberg to seek shelter and advice from their leaders, but found every man in Nuremberg arrested.

Two boys, 15 and 17 years old, having no money and not daring to use the railroad, came to Nuremberg, 150 Kilometers away, on bicycles. They wanted food for three Jewish families in their villages. Their barns and houses had been burned and they could get no food from their Aryan neighbors.

I have been in several German cities, but Nuremberg, in my opinion, has suffered more than any other, because here Julius Streicher is the supreme lord and he has promised to rid this City of Jews by Christmas.

All Jews under threat of guns and beatings are forced to sign away their property and stores for 10% of their tax valus. I have seen automobiles sold to the Nazi Party for 100 marks, for which the Jewish owner had paid 5,000 marks only a year ago.

I know of a fact where a Jew had found an Aryan buyer for his house. The tax value of this house was 100,000 marks. The Jew had agreed to sell it for 50,000 marks. All legal papers had been drawn up before a notary public (long before the pogrom), but the sale could not be consummated, because all sales need the approval of the Nazi Party and this approval was withheld. Last week the Jew was forced to sell this property to the Nazi Party for 5,000 marks, less transfer charges amounting to over 2,500 marks. The former contract was annulled by order of the Nazi Party.

The Nazi Party buys property and stores at 5% to 10% of the tax value and then sells them to Aryan buyers at 50% above tax value, thus realizing a handsome profit. Therefore, the Nazi Party by robbing the Jews in a so-called legal manor (all sales are made in the presence of a Nazi notary public) is accumulating enormous capital.

Usually the choicest pieces of property are sold to the Party chiefs who in this way become propristors of dozens of valuable property for a mere song.

The housing problem for Jews is desperate. By virtue of a new law just passed, Jews must give up all apartments with rental value up to 120 marks per month, which means the smaller popular flats. They are told to move into the homes of the well-to-do Jews. Even now the homes of the rich Jews are being shared by the refugees from the country. No one knows where those evicted from the cheaper flats are going to find shelter.

The few remaining Jewish lawyers and physicians charge no fees, since money under present conditions, is of no value in Franconia. They are glad to help their brethren to liquidate their holdings and to arrange emigration. I have visited several law offices. I found in each of them 50 to 100 Jewish clients lined up.

In many citiss the private bank accounts of Jews are altogether blocked: in others they can draw 100 marks per week only.

Last week a new law has been decreed forbidding Jews to dispose of any of

their property. Until further notice they are not allowed to sell even a broken chair.

Since the pogrom Jews are forbidden by law to sell stocks or bonds, even for the purpose of meeting their share of the billion mark levy. This was decreed apparently to avoid a panic and a depression on the Stock Exchange.

In Nuremberg and in other cities in Franconia, police stations and Government offices have separate waiting rooms for Jews. No Jew can go into the Aryan waiting room under heavy penalty. In Nuremberg the Jewish waiting room is in the Cellar and Jewish men and women are given instructions that they must get up from their benches every time an Aryan official enters the waiting room and they must remain standing until such official gives them permission to sit down. If they do not obey these orders they are beaten up.

The Jewish leaders I have had occasion to interview have not lost their heads, but the population is terror-stricken. So, for instance, are they awaiting with the greatest anxiety and fear the trial of Grunszpan in Paris. They are afraid of a repetition of the pogroms in case Grunspan receives a favorable verdict.

Many files, documents and deeds in Jewish lawyers', notaries' and architects' offices were destroyed during the pogrom or taken away by the Nazi S.S. Now that the expropriation of Jewish property and stores is being pushed by the Nazis, these lawyers, notaries, etc. are called upon to supply the documents, which in many cases they cannot do for the above mentioned reasons. If they are unable to produce the deeds to Government agents, they are accused of obstructing the Aryanization of Jewish stores, banks, etc. and are threatened to be thrown into concentration camps.

In smaller towns and even cities like Nuremberg with a population of 400,000, all shopkeepers were forced to put up signs "Jews not wanted here", and so the Jews cannot buy food, can get no haircuts and cannot even take a taxi.

One of my Jewish friends had to go to Berlin to arrange some legal matters. He was afraid to take a regular compartment on a day train, so he decided to take a sleeper, but in order not to be molested or insulted by an Aryan travelling companion (sleeping compartments have 2 berths) he bought tickets for both berths and since he paid for the two berths, he had the happy idea to take along his wife, so she could get a haircut in Berlin.

While in Nuremberg, I intended to intervene with the authorities in the case of the Rabbi, Dr. Heilbronner, who is in a concentration camp. Before doing so I sought the advice of the Jewish leaders there. They are so terrorized that they thought I was out of my mind. They pleaded with me not to approach the Gestapo, because it might do them harm, if a foreigner, be it Jew or non-Jew, would dare to aid Jews. I personally do not think any harm would result either for me or for them from my visit to the Gestapo, but seeing the frightened faces of my Jewish friends, I desisted from my intention and Dr. Heilbronner is still in the concentration camp. I was told he is a sick man and will not stand the rigid regime there.

IV. Fuerth.

At one O'clock during the night of November 9th to 10, the whole Jewish population, men women and even small children, were turned out from their houses and assembled in a large public place. All these people had to stand there until seven o'clock in the morning and then were taken to Berolzheimer Hall, donated by the well-known family now living in the States. This hall is now occupied by the Hitler Jugend. Once there, women and children were allowed to go home and during the day the same permission was given to men over 60 as well as to former officers and to those who were severely wounded during the war. The few people who were able to produce documents showing they were about to leave the country within the next few

days were liberated too. About 150 men out of a population of 1,000 Jews were sent either to prison or to concentration camps - 5% to Nuremberg and the rest to Dachau. The synagogue was burned down. At the Berolzheimer Hall severall people were beaten up in the presence of the others.

I could speak personally to people coming back from the concentration camps. They were able to buy their own food. Money and letters are allowed, thus, notwithstanding the prison food which is not good, they manage to get along fairly well. The head of every Jew entering the concentration camp is naturally shaved and he is put into prison garb, and as the days are rather cool they have difficulty keeping warm.

The Jews who had been lying in the hospital were forced to get up, several even after serious operations. They had to stay in the open until the Nazis came in search of weapons as they claimed. One man whose name was Loach and who had been operated on a few days before, died from heart failure caused by fear.

In the meantime, people were arriving from Nuremberg and the outlying districts to the Fuerth Hospital. There were so many that they had to be laid on the floor, although the doctors and nurses gave their own beds away. This place which was built for 60 sick people is crowded with over 200, who are lying even in the basement like sheep. Two doctors only are left to take care of the hospital. All the Aryan nurses were forced to leave and the sick people now depend on two Jewish nurses and on volunteers among the Jewish women, who help these two nurses. One of the doctors was beaten up so badly that he can hardly walk and work.

It goes without saying that the few Jewish stores left were all demolished and all the merchandise destroyed or carried away by the Nazis. The Aryans are strictly forbidden to sell anything to the Jews, even to the hospital. The Jewish families depend on the generosity of their Aryan friends, who expose themselves to danger in order to supply them with what is necessary.

V. Frankfurt-on-Main.

In this city the Nazis acted the same way as in other cities. All synagogues were burned down. People were taken from their homes and the houses destroyed. Another proof that this pogrom was organized in advance is the fact that a home for aged people and children, still owned by Baron de Rothschild of London, was not touched, because it is foreign property and as such the Nazis would be liable for damages.

Children from an orphanage were chased out of Bed. All were lined up and ordered to lie down on the ground in their nightshirts; then the S.S. whipped them; then they were ordered to stand up, lie down again, beaten again, told to stand up and this was repeated many times.

There are children in the concentration camps, but they are being released gradually after having spent 8 days there and even longer.

Children in homes are underfed, partly because of lack of food and partly because they refuse to eat non-kosher meat. They are kept in corners of destroyed orphanages with no roof over their heads. Many were beaten during the disorders and there is a look of fear and despair in their eyes, which I am afraid will remain with them for a long time, if not for life.

Valuable paintings and collections worth hundreds of thousands of dollars were destroyed by the vandals.

Nazis obliged storekeepers to affix signs "Jews forbidden". In the case of Frankfurt, the May ordered the removal of such signs in order to permit the Jews to buy food, fearing an epidemic.

Twenty-five children for England had to be prepared from Saturday till Monday. The trouble is lack of transportation. The only car was taken away by the Hitler Jugend.

VI. Wiesbaden.

Torahs were spread on the streets and autos driven over them. Then the Jews were forced to clean them away from the streets and throw them in a bonfire.

VII. Krojanka.

Synagogues were burned down. Jewish men and women were forced to clear up the debris and to clean the building stones and bricks in order to save "German wealth". The Nazis want to build new houses with this material.

VIII. Note on Natality.

When travelling through Germany I was struck by the absence of small children and babies. Upon investigation I found out that very few Jewish children have been born since the Hitler regime. It is worth while mentioning that the present Jewish population in Germany shows a large percentage of old people. Whereas there there are about 25% of old people over 60 years of age, and another 25% over 45 years, there are only 15% children between 6 and 18 years and very few babies.

IX. Conclusion.

In my travels I have been to various cities and spoke everywhere with the Jewish leaders. All the Communities have so far ample means to take care of immediate welfare work and it was the consensus of opinion among these leaders that the J. D. C. should not bring in foreign currency into Germany, but use the funds available for the rehabilitation of the German Jews leaving the country, except for organizations doing emigration work.

On the other hand all the organizations which have for their aim the emigration of the German Jews are handicapped by lack of dunds and the closing of the Reichsvertretung. They are out of touch with each other and cannot carry on the work of emigration efficiently. They all hope that the Reichsvertretung will be permitted to open in the very near future and that then emigration will go forward more rapidly, provided naturally that other countries open their doors to receive the Jews coming from Germany.

Emigration is the one hope of escape.

George Rooby,

Paris, December 1st, 1938

Ben Franl 's Voice

Milan, Nov. 25.

To the Editor, European Edition:—

Benjamin Franklin, speaking at the Constitutional Convention in 1789 (the text is preserved in the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia) said:—

"In whatever country Jews have settled in any great numbers, they have lowered its moral tone, depreciated its commercial integrity; they have segregated themselves and not been assimilated; they have sneered at and tried to undermine the Christian religion upon which that nation is founded by objecting to its restrictions; they have built up a state within a state, and when opposed, have tried to strangle that country to death financially, as in the case of Spain and Portugal . . . If you do not exclude them from the United States in this Constitution, in less than 200 years they will have swarmed in such great numbers that they will dominate and devour the land and change our form of government, for which we Americans have shed our blood, given our lives and our substance, and jeopardized our liberty. If you do not exclude them, in less than 200 years our descendants will be working in the fields to furnish them substance, while they will be in the counting-houses rubbing their hands. I warn you, gentlemen, if you do not exclude the Jews for all time, your children will curse you in your graves. Jews, gentlemen, are Asiatics; let them be born where they will, or how many generations they are away from Asia, they will never be otherwise."

A. N. N.

A Pertinent Point

Paris, Nov. 30.

To the Editor, European Edition:—

After being informed—from a recent letter of Mr. Irving Best's—of the coldness and conservativeness of the Herald Tribune, we go on to learn that "the Jewish race is one of intelligent people, ambitious, peaceful and lawful. They have never been a menace to any country but, on the contrary, usually build them. To judge such a body of people by a few individuals is absolute stupidity."

While holding no brief for the mis-

N. Y. Herald 1/12/38

Reference.....

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR FOR PUBLICATION

George Rooby
3, rue Paul Dupuy
Paris, 16e

December 2nd, 1938.

The Editor
N. Y. Herald Tribune

Dear Sir:

As an American citizen and ex-serviceman I was greatly surprised to see how the New York Herald Tribune, the only American daily newspaper in Europe, is permitting itself to be misled by Nazi propaganda, opening its pages for anonymous letters.

I am not in the habit of writing letters to the Editor, but this matter is most provocative. It affects the reputation of your newspaper and what is more it casts aspersions on the President of the United States. I refer to the anonymous letter which you carried on December 1st under the title "Ben Franklin's Voice", reproducing without any comment an alleged statement by Benjamin Franklin against the Jews, without your verifying the accuracy of the quotation.

Are you aware of the fact that this statement has been definitely and conclusively proven in the United States to be a forgery? Do you know that two eminent American historians, non-Jews, Prof. Charles A. Beard and Dr. John Musser, the Franklin historian of New York University, have independently made a careful study of the statement attributed to Benjamin Franklin and both have found it a forgery? Actually it was established that Benjamin Franklin was quite friendly to the Jews and in fact made a personal contribution to the Hebrew Society in Philadelphia for the erection of a synagogue.

I wonder whether you also know that the letter which you printed appeared on November 19th in the Voelkischer Beobachter, Hitler's chief organ in Germany, under the headline "Franklin against Roosevelt," thus utilizing this forged statement not only against the Jews but more directly against the President of the United States? Did you realize that you have been used as an instrument to besmirch the name and prestige of the President of your own country?

Can you explain why the pro-Jewish letters published in your columns always carry the full name of the writer, whereas the anti-Jewish communications are in most instances, - as in the case of the letter in question,- anonymous or merely initialed? Isn't it reasonable to assume from this that these letters are in the main fictitious? In these serious days for the Jews, isn't it natural to expect that a responsible newspaper should exercise every discretion and certainly avoid publishing inaccurate information. Don't you think it is high time for you to stop all this correspondence about Jews and Nazism?

Very sincerely yours,

George Rooby

COPIE

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

CHAMBRE DES DÉPUTÉS

Paris, le 12 Mars 1[illegible]

Monsieur le Directeur,

Je crois devoir vous adresser ces quelques mots pour vous affirmer qu'étant seul en cause les affaires de Mr le Député ... qui a bien voulu, sur mes instances, intervenir en faveur de la demande de résidence en France de Mesdames Della Heller et Malvina Zimmt, qui m'ont été vivement recommandées de votre part, je me suis occupé avec toute l'activité possible de cette affaire et que j'ai la ferme espoir que satisfaction sera donnée sous peu à la dite demande.

Vous avez pu constater, par les diverses copies et lettre originale que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer que l'affaire suivait bien son cours, malheureusement fort lentement par suite des habitudes de l'Administration française, surtout de la situation actuelle, et, d'autre part, des nombreuses démarches qu'il faut effectuer dans divers services administratifs; conseil, préfecture et ministères.

Malgré toutes ces formalités fastidieuses, j'ai la conviction que satisfaction sera obtenue dans un délai que j'espère prochain. J'en serais très heureux pour eux.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Directeur, à l'assurance de mes sentiments distingués et dévoués.

Mr. W. C. Gibson,
Directeur de la Maison H. Henty & Co.,
Rue Carbon, Paris.

Wolfgang Mattersdorf

Berlin-Tempelhof, den 6. Januar 1939
Bacharacherstr. 24

Sehr geehrter Herr Rooby!

Ich bestätige den Eingang Ihres Schreibens vom 5.cr. und telegraphierte Ihnen heute: "Pässe bereits unterwegs Bilder folgen heute' Ich füge diese in der Anlage bei und erwarte nunmehr Ihre weiteren Instruktionen.

Mit besten Grüssen
Ihr ergebener
Wolfgang Mattersdorf

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Mr. Géo Rooby

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Chief Accountant

TELEPHONE
LABORDE 79-84
CABLES & TELEGRAMS
JOINTFUND-PARIS

March 28, 1939

No.9636

Mr. George Rooby,
3 rue Paul Dupuy,
Paris, 16e.

Dear Mr. Rooby:

We enclose copy of letter, dates yesterday, which we have just received from the German Jewish Aid Committee, and which is self-explanatory.

We shall be glad if you will have the enclosed application forms filled in and returned to us as early as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Katz

Nathan Katz.

Enclosures

nk:ga

BERNHARD KAHN
Honorary Chairman

JOSEPH A. ROSEN
Director of Agrojoint

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

19, RUE DE TEHERAN
PARIS (8e)

MORRIS C. TROPER
Chairman
DAVID J. SCHWEITZER
Vice-Chairman
NATHAN KATZ
Secretary
IRWIN SPEISER
Chief Accountant

TELEPHONE
LABORDE 79-84
CABLES & TELEGRAMS
JOINTFUND-PARIS

March 31,1939

9760

Mr. George Rooby
1, Cité Paradis
Paris (X°)

Dear Mr. Rooby,

Before I received yours of March 30th, I had already written to London for the application blank for Mr. Machol as a person over 60, and I will forward this to you when it arrives.

In the meantime I would suggest that you keep the affidavit from Mr. Baruch and forward it at the same time as the application blank.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan Katz

Nathan Katz.

NK:lf

Paris, March 22nd, 1939.

The American J.D.C.
19 rue Teheran
Paris.

Re: Mr.Josef Machol; Berlin.

My dear Murray:

A couple of days ago I asked Mr.Bein to procure for me 2 references of English citizens living in England to whom the Machols could refer in their application to the English Consul in Berlin.

Mr.Bein promised me to take advantage of your stay in London and to ask you over the long distance telephone to get these 2 addresses for me. I shall appreciate it very much if you can let me have them at your earliest convenience, which will enable me to take further steps with a view of obtaining for the Machols an entry permit to England.

As you know Mr.B. is putting up for them a guarantee of 500 Eng.Pounds with the Bank of England, and is further willing to assure their existence in England until such time as they will be admitted to the States within the quota. Mr.Grunberg mentions in his cable a period of 3 years.

Trusting to hear from you, I am with best regards

Cordially yours,

GR/AO
dictated but not re-read.

GEO. ROGBY

Paris March 17th.,1939

The American J.D.C.
19 rue de Téhéran.
Paris;

Gentlemen:-

In reply to my cable of which I sent you a copy I received today attached cable from New York in the matter of Mr. Josef Machol Berlin.

Yours very truly

Geo. Rooby.

Paris, January 6th, 1939.

Mr. Murray C. Troper
Paris.

My dear Mr.Troper:-

In the Berlin office I came across some very confidential files,containing letters and cables exchanged in 1922/23 between New York and Dr.Bogen, Dr.Kahn and Mr. Schweitzer,in administrative,social and welfare matters. I deemed it unwise to leave such documents in Germany under present conditions and so I took it upon myself to order the destruction of these files.

I feel sure you will endorse my decision.

There are tons of files stored in the Berlin office and it is quite possible that there are more confidential documents among them, but to sift them is a Herculean task, and I understand it is against the law to burn documents in Germany. I am unfortunately not in a position to propose a solution how to get rid of these files, but Ithought it my duty to call your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

HILFSVEREIN DER JUDEN IN DEUTSCHLAND e.V.

vom Herrn Reichsminister des Innern durch Verfügung vom 31. Oktober 1924 Nr. II 7781 als gemeinnützige Auswandererberatungsstelle für die Beratung jüdischer Auswanderer anerkannt.

Berlin W 35, den 4. Januar 1939
Ludendorffstraße 20

Betrifft: Dr.Bi/Wch.
(Bei Beantwortung unbedingt anzugeben)

Mr.
R o o b y,
c/o American Joint Distribution Committee
19 Rue de Téhéran,
P a r i s 8 e

Betr. Herbert Mosee
Berlin, Ryckestr.45.

Lieber Mr. Rooby,

Soeben ist Herr Herbert M o s e s bei uns. Er teilt mit, dass Sie ihm in Aussicht gestellt hätten, ihm in Paris ein Visum für Brasilien zu besorgen. Herr M. hat, wie er uns mitteilt, Anfang November einen Reisepass beantragt und hofft, denselben demnächst zu bekommen.

Vielleicht geben Sie uns eine Nachricht, ob es Ihnen tatsächlich möglich ist, ein Visum für Brasilien zu erhalten und zwar natürlich für Herrn Moses und seine Ehefrau Dora, geb. Blumenthal. Vielleicht hat auch HerrM. Sie missverstanden und Sie haben von einem Vieum Bolivien transit Brasilien gesprochen. Herr M. sagt jedoch soeben, daas er Sie nicht missverstanden hat, sondern dass es sich um ein Einreisevisum nach Brasilien handelt. Wir dürfen also einer Mitteilung Ihrerseits entgegensehen, ob Sie ein solches Visum für Herrn und Frau Moses beschaffen können.

Wir nehmen an, dass Sie in diesem Falle auch das notwendige Vorzeigegeld beschaffen werden, welches Herrn und Frau Moses für den Fall der Auswanderung und nach erfolgter Auswanderung zur Verfügung zu stellen wäre.

Herr Moees behauptet, dass Sie eine Bescheinigung des Hilfsvereine gewünscht hätten, um ihm weiter helfen zu können. Geben Sie une bitte Nachricht, ob Sie ausser dem Inhalt dieses Briefes noch eine weitere Bescheinigung des Hilfsvereins wünschen.

Herr Moees erklärt une ferner, dass er auch nach Bolivien oder Ecuedor auszuwandern willig sei.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
HILFSVEREIN DER JUDEN IN DEUTSCHLAND EV.

Bischofswerder

Fr. Edward Lippförster

Fernsprecher: Sammelnummer 22 98 96 · Telegramm-Adresse: „ZEDAKAH" Berlin · Postscheckkonto: Berlin 331 26
BANK-KONTEN: Deutsche Bank, Depositen-Kasse P, Berlin W 35, Potsdamer Straße 131
A. E. Wassermann, Berlin W 8, Wilhelmplatz 7
Kreditverein für Handel und Gewerbe e. G. m. b. H., Berlin C 2, Oranienburger Straße 3

Paris, January 7th., 1939

Dr. Bischopswerder.
c/o Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland e.V
Ludendorffstrasse. 20
Berlin W.35

Re: Herbert Moses.
Berlin Ryckestr.45

My dear Dr. Bischopswerder.

I received your letter of January 4th.,and thank you very much for the interest you have shown in the matter of Mr. and Mrs. Moses. You are quite right in assuming that I promised Mr. Moses a visa to Bolivia transit Brasil and if Mr. Moses claims that I could obtain for him an emmigration visa to Brasil he is mistaken. What I really told him id that he might be able under certain conditions to remain in Brasil but that is up to him and we have no control over it.

Please explain to him the possibilities of remaining in Brasil being that you are more familiar with these matters than I am.

In regard to the landing money and the cost of a visa I will try to get in touch with the Joint Hicem after receiving all the necessary datas from you.

Mr. Moses also misunderstood me in regard to the "Besscheinigung". What I wanted to convey to him is that a case must go through you and that you will report in the regular manner through the usual channel mentioning my name in your correspondance so that when the case comes to the Hicem or the Joint I will be kept in touch with it.

Thanking you again for your kindnesses and with best personal regards I am

Yours very truly

Geo. Rooby.

Paris, January 10th, 1939.

Mr. Grunberg,
% H.Hentz & Co.,
60 Beaver Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

The undersigned was delegated by Mr.M.C.Troper,European Chairman of The American Joint Distribution Committee,Paris, to investigate conditions in Germany and to give,wherever possible, assistance to a number of our Jewish brethren to emigrate from Germany.

As a result of a cable from New York I have visited Mr. and Mrs. Josef Machol in Berlin and also Mr.& Mrs. Wolfgang Mattersdorf. I have submitted a detailed report about these 2 cases to Mr. Troper, which report will be forwarded by the American J.D.C. through proper channels to their relative in America Mr.B.

Being afraid of the strict censorship in Germany,Mrs. Machol requested me to take out of Germany and to transmit to you attached letter, which for above stated reasons she did not dare to sign.

Through Mr.Machol I have also come into contact with Mrs.Zimmt and Mrs.Heller,whose cases are being handled by Mr.Gibson of your Paris office. I have taken care of the formalities in Berlin for above two ladies and Mr.Gibson is trying to obtain the entry permit to France from the Paris end. Since my return from Germany I have seen him several times and was glad to hear from him yesterday that a Visa was promised to him within 2 or 3 weeks, so that the two old ladies will be able to live in a more propitious climate away from the horrors of present Germany.

In case you wish to communicate with Mr.& Mrs. Machol you may use me as an intermediary, either to transmit to them your letters or to telephone to Berlin your communications,whenever the sending of letters is not advisable.

Always ready to be of service, I beg to remain,
Yours very truly,

GEO. ROOBY

Paris, March 14th,1939.

Mr.Grunberg,
% H.Hentz & Co.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I received your cable of March 1st,which I immediately turned over to the American Joint Distribution Committee,Paris for attention and action. On account of pressing business I was unable to proceed to Berlin, but the American Joint has dispatched another representative,who has seen the Machols in Berlin, and has taken up their case. A cable was sent by the American Joint to Mr.Baruch through regular channels,in which they requested that Mr.B. use his personal influence in London to obtain an extension of Machols Palestine Visa,which will expire on March 31st.

I am glad to notify you that in the meantime above Visa has been extended and will be valid for another month,so that Machol will have time to take care of the release and evacuation of his furniture and personal effects.

However, Machols emigration presents itself now in a different light. You understand that Mr.Machol has not only very anxious to emigrate to Palestine,where earning possibilities for a man of his age (he is 65 years old) are practically nil. He accepted the visa like a drawning man reaching for a straw,because there seemed to exist no other way for him of getting out from Germany. I suppose he has written in this sense to Mr.B. and this is the reason I received your cable mentioned above. The Machols are afraid that they will have to live in Palestine on charity and they have never done this in their life time. And besides their ultimate goal are the United States where to they hope to proceed on the strength of Mr.Baruch's affidavits, if and when they will come within the quota.

Mr.Machol thinks and I personally absolutely agree with him, that he could just as well wait for his American Visa in Europe (outside of Germany naturally),where he would be able to make a living and support himself by taking up again his old connections in the Northern part of Europe,like Sweden,Norway,Denmark and England. He has done business with these countries before when he was established in Berlin and his former customers encourage him to try it again. You know Mr.Machol has always been a well-to-do man a self-made successful business man and he feels that he can start over again, even though his fortune has been taken away by the Nazis. His spirit is by no means broken.

I am quite certain Mr.Machol will make good if given an opportunity. All he asks is to be helped constructively,which in his case means to be transplanted into a climate where he could make use of his former experience and old business connections.

There is now a possibility of obtaining for him an entry permit to England and I therefore cabled you yesterday as per attached confirmation.

To get the Home Office in London to permit the Machols to enter England it is necessary to put up a guarantee that they will not become a public charge. If you can arrange to transfer to ~~the preferable~~ EnglandBank (preferable Bank of England) a sum of £500. 0. 0 in the name of Josef Machol we could start working on the English entry permit. This sum must be deposited with the express stipulation that it will be paid to him only after leaving Germany. At the same time ~~I cannot~~ have the affidavits of Mr.Baruch to prove to the English Consul that the Machols will use England as a temporary refuge awaiting admittance to the United States.

It is for this reason that I asked you to send the affidavits to Paris; and if you could arrange the transfer of the £ 500. 0. 0 by Cable we could gain time. The way conditions are in Germany every day counts.

Mr. & Mrs. Mattersdorf have already sailed to Brazil after passing through Paris and receiving from The American Joint the money,which Mr. B. was kind enough to put at their disposal.

Mrs.Zimmt and Mrs.Heller. They have not as yet been able to leave Germany. There is some difficulty with their French Visas, but Mr.Gibson, with whom I am in constant touch, assures me that the entry permit for these two ladies will be granted within a reasonably short time. It goes without saying, that the case of Mrs.Zimmt and Mrs.Heller would receive immediate attention ~~with~~ the French authorities, if Mr.B. would permit me to use his name in my negotiations and would send me a letter to the American Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Bullitt and to the French Foreign office,if possible. Up until now I have in accordance with instructions of the American Joint never mentioned Mr. Baruch's personal interest in above cases.

Referring to the last sentence of your cable I wish to say that any information in connection with establishing the affidavits can be obtained either from the American Joint or the Hias in N.Y.

GR/AO

Yours very truly,

GEO. ROGBY

Telephone:
LANgham 3000

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION,
EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE,
11, PORTLAND PLACE,
LONDON, W.1.

16th March, 1945.

Dear Mr. Rooby,

This is just to acknowledge your report dated 19th February, on your activities in France.

I am sorry I did not have time to spend most of the morning with you learning more of the interesting work you are doing. I shall be over in Paris again, however, before very long and next time I really will see to it that we get a proper sit-down together.

Meanwhile, all the best of luck to you in your job.

Yours sincerely,

T. T. Scott,
Director Displaced Persons
Division,
European Regional Office.

P.S. I have forwarded a copy of your report to Mr. Hoehler in Washington.

George Rooby, Esq.,
American Joint Distribution Committee,
19, Rue de Teheran,
Paris.

48, Bld. Maillot,
Neuilly-sur-Seine.

Reference.....

To: Mr. George Rooby

From: Miss Macbrayne

Brigadier Fraser acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of your memorandum dated February 28th enclosing copy of report for Mr. T. T. Scott on your activities in France. Brigadier Fraser asks me to call your attention to the procedure which should be used for forwarding such reports to London, i.e. five copies - four for the E. R. O. and one for our files - should be passed through the office of the Chief of Mission, which office will undertake to mail them to the E. R. O.

J. D. Macbrayne.

6th March, 1945.

Reference

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

On February 19th, 1945, I submitted a memorandum outlining in brief form my temporary assignment with the American Joint Distribution Committee, Paris, France. At first I was entrusted with [illegible] duties of a technical character such as procurement, transportation, warehousing etc., but soon I was called upon to deal with various [illegible] relief problems on functional as well as operational [illegible] in matters where the knowledge of [illegible] was imperative.

I also acted as liaison officer and assisted in the [illegible] negotiations with [illegible] authorities [illegible] relief a [illegible].

The present report will cover the period from February 1[illegible] to April 20th, 1945 i.e., the day I was recalled by [illegible] and ordered to proceed to London for reassignment.

General

[illegible]

[illegible] the Jewish population in the United States.

Because of limited resources [illegible] relief programs in foreign countries through local [illegible] subsidies in [illegible] money. [illegible] strict control and supervision [illegible]

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[illegible] the Jewish [illegible] in France [illegible] the Jewish population which as a result of ruthless [illegible] and extermination methods has suffered more than any other [illegible] people bar none.

About [illegible] Francs per month are being expended by the [illegible] for relief in France. This limited budget is insufficient to permit long-term reconstruction or rehabilitation programs. [illegible] emergency aid and assistance is given to those for [illegible] no other means or resources of relief exist.

Jewish population in France

[illegible] for slave labour and/or extermination. [illegible] Jewish deportees are being found alive in German concentration [illegible] liberated by allied [illegible].

About [illegible] in France [illegible] and death by the [illegible] of the Jewish [illegible] hiding in the "[illegible]" [illegible] assumed names and false identification documents supplied by [illegible] resistance groups. [illegible]

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where surprisingly [illegible] the [illegible] original places. [illegible] very small minority [illegible] country [illegible] went to [illegible].

[illegible] inevitable result of privations bordering on starvation [illegible] endure during the long exhausting period. They were living in constant mortal fear of being detected by the [illegible] or of being denounced to the authorities by collaborationists. In either case it meant immediate arrest and deportation to [illegible] labour or extermination.

Economic Situation of the Jews in France

When the Jewish population fled to safety they were forced to leave behind all their possessions. During the enforced absence from their homes, their businesses were liquidated, work-shops and factories confiscated, their furniture taken to Germany for bombed-out [illegible] and their homes put up for sale. Furthermore they could not find gainful employment during the clandestine period. Even the well-to-do used up such capital as they had managed to take with them into hiding.

On the basis of above facts it is not difficult to deduce that the great majority of the Jewish population in France is economically ruined. Those who have survived and are returning to their former places of residence find that they cannot enter into possession of their homes, apartments, shops, factories and businesses. [illegible] other people who have acquired them from the [illegible]. [illegible] the restoration of illegally acquired [illegible] properties has been [illegible] out but has not been as yet officially promulgated. [illegible] returning Jewish property [illegible] the [illegible]. [illegible] returning [illegible] find themselves without shelter and without resources to make a fresh start.

Under above conditions it is no wonder that the [illegible] through its local welfare organisations counts on its welfare rolls [illegible] needy and destitute adults and [illegible] children, who fall into the special category of emergency aid and assistance, meaning that "no other means of relief exist for these unfortunate people". [illegible] percent of this group

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[illegible] is represented by [illegible] officers, [illegible] officers, [illegible] number of officers [illegible] returning officers. There are [illegible] [illegible] available to work. [illegible] certain [illegible] [illegible] considerable numbers of artists, musicians, [illegible], students, small business men and artisans, who have been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by the Victory [illegible].

Besides above 40,000 people, there are great numbers of [illegible] who are being [illegible] receive partial relief from official [illegible] [illegible], Jewish Voluntary Welfare Organizations, the [illegible] Cross, etc. [illegible] [illegible] rehabilitation are being planned by [illegible] [illegible] Governments through their established relief [illegible].

These activities are not known because of lack of coordination among the various relief organizations, but [illegible] [illegible] subsidiary numbers are [illegible] other assistance aside from the 40,000 [illegible] for whom the [illegible] has assumed responsibility.

<u>Reorganization of [illegible] Committee</u>

To cope with above complex problems a number of committees on local [illegible] operation are being fabricated by the [illegible] in [illegible] and Norway. During the [illegible] period a certain measure of duplication in the examination of relief was unavoidable. Coordination of relief activities was not feasible because of the under [illegible] character of the work and the need of rapid enforcement.

[illegible] training [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] endeavours to bring work more under [illegible] coordination among the various [illegible]. Negotiations on [illegible] committee have been organized on national, [illegible] levels on the [illegible] in connection with the administration of relief. As [illegible] clearly defined, no time overlapping and duplication is evident.

Negotiations are also going on between the [illegible] and [illegible] governmental relief [illegible] with a view to bringing about more [illegible] and coordination in the allocation of relief to the needy [illegible] population of France.

During my [illegible] arrangement with the [illegible] [illegible] devote to this reorganization work because of my knowledge of French.

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[illegible] that the [illegible] received [illegible] were [illegible] and served free.

[illegible] received [illegible] immediately [illegible] their destination. [illegible] on trains waiting on a siding.

[illegible] of the arrivals [illegible] travelled the same day, others who are unable or unwilling to continue their [illegible] are taken to [illegible] billets or hospitals as the case may be.

Deportees from Concentration Camps

I had occasion to interview some French Jews returning from Auschwitz and Birkenau the horror and extermination camps, in which Jewish deportees and political prisoners were housed prior to being murdered in gas chambers. The stories I heard are too horrible to be recited in this report. The tortures that these men, women and even children had to undergo, are beyond comprehension of decent human beings. Since then some of the stories appeared in the press and have been corroborated by British and other official investigating bodies. [illegible] personally these shocking torture methods are not new. I came across them in November 1938 during the famous, but now forgotten pogrom instigated by the Nazis against the Jewish population of Germany. At the time I covered Germany on behalf of the [illegible] in an effort to reorganise welfare work which was disrupted as a result of the Nazi so-called "spontaneous excesses of the German people". As a matter of fact, the pogrom was [illegible] by the Nazi party.

[illegible] Philippeville

In the course of my work an opportunity presented itself to interview some refugees returning from Jeanne d'Arc camp. These people originated from the Bergen-Belsen exchange group and were sent to Philippeville from Switzerland. I am glad to report that all were very much satisfied with the treatment they received on the part of UNRRA camp staff. Without exception they voiced high praises over the efficient manner in which the Philippeville camp is being run by UNRRA.

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[illegible] criticise in the [illegible] to go from Switzerland via [illegible] Marseilles [illegible] Hillsville [illegible] France [illegible] could have been [illegible] direct from Marseilles [illegible] this procedure is a mystery to [illegible] too. Logic tells us that French nationals should be segregated [illegible] processed in Marseilles or at the [illegible] frontier.

[illegible] Training Service and Central Index

I am mentioning this subject because of the interest evinced in this matter by [illegible] Carter and Mrs. Nicholls.

Mrs. Cecilia [illegible] is in charge of the [illegible] Central Index and Tracing Bureau. [illegible] will no doubt submit to you a [illegible] report as to the working of this important service. [illegible] is a member of the [illegible] and loaned to the [illegible] for temporary assignment.

However, as Liaison Officer, I was involved indirectly with the Central Index and [illegible] therefore able to give you some information.

The French Ministry of Prisoners of War, Deportees etc., possesses 3 separate sets of cards. One covers all French [illegible] the second political prisoners and [illegible] Jewish deportees. For administrative reasons the three indexes are [illegible] separate. The first two are filed alphabetically and seem to be up-to-date. The third containing the names of Jewish deportees is incomplete and in chronological, instead of alphabetical order. [illegible] if we wish to find [illegible] the whereabouts of a certain [illegible] we must give the Ministry the exact date of his deportation. [illegible] the absence of this information [illegible] cannot be [illegible] in a very exceptional case. [illegible] the filing [illegible] or more chronological [illegible] cards, which is obviously impractical for general use.

The [illegible] office of the [illegible] receives [illegible] substantial numbers of inquiries [illegible] from people all over the world and particularly from the [illegible] These relatives [illegible] anxious to contact relative [illegible] friends from whom they have not heard for years and whose whereabouts they frantically are trying to trace. [illegible] cannot expect a relative from [illegible] for instance, to find the exact date of the deportation of his sister or mother or father from the [illegible]. On the other hand, the [illegible] most anxious to help reunite families. Besides this is one of the important services for which the [illegible] has assumed responsibility.

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Reference [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] recommendation [illegible] in favour of a very [illegible] would prove very costly and uneconomical in relation to required services.

[illegible]

The problem of trucking was solved on the [illegible] basis of [illegible] warehouse. [illegible] This arrangement is temporary in view of the high cost of trucks and [illegible] increase and the scarcity of gasoline. [illegible] available [illegible]

On the other hand, it was found that the [illegible] relief program is greatly handicapped through [illegible] city devoid of taxis and other means of transportation. Therefore a passenger automobile was acquired for official use only, in connection with the necessary inspection trips of canteens, institutions etc.

Official [illegible] high [illegible] on railroads and [illegible] in moving [illegible] distances are involved, [illegible] service.

[illegible]

Because of the [illegible] food situation on the continent and to counteract the high cost of living, the [illegible] local committees [illegible] in the [illegible] area. [illegible] maintaining [illegible] food and sanitation.

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TO: Mr. T.T.Scott, Director of Div. on D.P.'s. ERO.

FROM: George Rooby, D.P.Specielist, on Detached Service in France.

SUBJECT: Report on acitivities in France.

Following is a brief report on my activities on Detached Service with the American Joint Distribution Committee in France: In accordance with your wishes I shall endeavor to keep you posted es to the progress of my work at this assignment.

I arrived at my new post on February 9th and reported to Mr.Fletcher Kettle of the Paris Forward Office. ~~Billeting and mess facilities were~~ promptly ~~and~~ most efficiently ~~taken care of~~ by ~~Miss LeBreyne~~. Travel authorization was duly handed over to Mr.Kean, the Finance Officer.

My official duties with the American Joint Distribution Committee started on Monday,February 12th. During preliminary discussions with Dr. Joseph Schwartz and Mr.Arthur Greenleigh over the week-end my work with their Organization was mapped out and my duties defined.

I was assigned and assumed responsibility in an advisory capacity for the solving of the following problems:

1. Transportation.

   i. Movements of Displaced Persons, Refugees,children, returning deportees and such other special categories as come within the mandate (sphere of competence) of JDC.

   ii. Shipment of relief supplies by RR,overland or any other means available.

   iii. Procurement of transportetion facilities for personnel and merchandise.

2. Werehousings

   i. Procurement of storege space for relief supplies.

   ii. Distribution of food,clothing and other relief goods to designated Welfare Committees and Institutions subventioned or supervised by the JDC.

3. Purchasing.

   i. Coopereting with JDC purchasing agents ebroad or overseas in the procurement of food,clothing,medical supplies etc.

   ii. Procurement of edditional or leasing of new office spaoe required by local Voluntary Welfare Agencies supervised or subventioned by the JDC.

   iii. Supplying such offices with needed equipment to enable efficient relief operations.

Rate